



## European Citizenship Awards

### Politix EU

#### Description of the nominee:

Politix EU (eu.politix.io) is a one-stop shop platform that aims to make citizens aware of EU policies shaping our everyday lives - in plain and simple language. Our goal is to close the feedback loop between politicians and citizens, meaning we want to show citizens what an abstract legislative proposal could mean for their lives and give them the chance to share their opinion on the proposal with policy-makers and the community around them. Our target public in general are all Europeans, but we are currently focusing on younger people that can consecutively act as a multiplier. We received a one year grant from the Advocate Europe programme (part of the Mercator foundation) and have partnered with the European Student Think Tank and the Student Forum Maastricht.

#### Impact achieved:

We created an interactive database of about 90 lobbyist organisations, 190 lobbyist positions and 50 EU laws presented in a visually appealing and comprehensible manner. This service is used by about 250 daily users contributing to a better understanding of how the EU works and what the EU is working on.

#### What makes the initiative innovative?

This project is unique as it is the only platform that offers a one-stop shop about European legislation combined with the opportunity for citizens to communicate their opinion to the outside world. The internet is still being used as a one-way street in politics while it could be doing so much more for a continuous dialogue between politics and citizens. This is where our innovative approach was grounded - in the idea of creating a two-way street for information and communication. We are providing the user with a short and comprehensive summary of an EU legislative proposal, structured along four key questions. This is complemented with additional links to get deeper into the issue and especially with the positions of lobbyists lobbying on this specific topic. As a result, citizens can easily get a 360-degree impression on a legislative proposal and then actively intervene and vote on the bill (Thumbs up, Thumbs down). After the European Parliament voted on the proposal users can compare their own vote with those of MEPs and lobbyists. Thus, the MEPs' voting behaviour is directly comparable to the public opinion expressed through user voting on the website. Such a comparison is so far unique on the market

for EU online tools. Our vision is that Members of the European Parliament may be guided by the voting behaviour of citizens.

### **Contribution to European values:**

The social enterprise is contributing to the European values of democracy, civic engagement, transparency and freedom. Politix EU reduces the complexity of the EU decision-making process and involves citizens through a strong participatory element, creating an innovative news platform that contributes to a new European public sphere.

### **Website or promotional materials:**

eu.politix.io

<https://medium.com/@Politix>;

<http://www.politico.eu/article/7-tools-on-eu-governance-brussels-lobbying-governance-open-data/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PolitixEU/>;

<https://twitter.com/politixeu>,

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/politix-eu>

<https://youtu.be/41nyExkKX44>